

**Question for written answer E-000128/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Inclusion of '*Cortaderia selloana*' on the list of invasive species

'*Cortaderia selloana*' or pampas grass is a very large evergreen grass species that can grow to over three metres tall. Native to South America, it has been heavily marketed for its ornamental appeal. Naturalised populations of the plant started spreading steadily and exponentially all along the Cantabrian coast many years ago until it became clear that this is an invasive plant.

On the Cantabrian coast it affects Asturias, the Basque Country, Cantabria and Galicia. Asturias, for instance, has estimated its established minimum abundance at approximately 910 000 specimens (lower – upper estimation limit: 712 000 – 1 100 009). During the period 2004-2006 it was estimated to have invaded 11.21 ha. This figure now stands at an estimated 502 ha.

In spite of these figures, '*Cortaderia selloana*' does not figure in the list of invasive alien species of concern governed by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141. Does the Commission plan to include it when this list of invasive species is next updated?